

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus for managing a cache in a distributed caching environment, the apparatus comprising:

[[means]] an event auditor for receiving a cache notification event from a sending device, wherein the cache notification event includes time relative information and a clock value for the sending device indicating a time the cache notification event was generated; and
a cache auditor for making a validation decision to one of validate and discard the cache notification event received by the event auditor, wherein the cache auditor determines ~~means for determining~~ a clock delta by determining a difference between a local clock value and the clock value for the sending device, ~~and means for adjusting~~ adjusts the time relative information in the cache notification event based upon the clock delta to time correct the cache notification event, and makes the validation decision to one of validate and discard the cache notification event based on the time corrected cache notification event.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the cache notification event is one of an add event, an update event, and an invalidation event.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the time relative information is an expiration value.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the expiration value is one of a discrete time and an amount of time relative to a created time.

13-20. (Canceled)